

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Budget Summary							
Fund	2002-03 Base Year Doubled	2003-05 Governor	2003-05 Jt. Finance	2003-05 Legislature	2003-05 Act 33	Act 33 Change Over Base Year Doubled	
						Amount	Percent
GPR	\$4,147,400	\$4,185,700	\$2,965,500	\$2,965,500	\$2,965,500	- \$1,181,900	- 28.5%
FED	1,897,600	2,173,800	2,404,300	2,404,300	2,404,300	506,700	26.7
PR	94,142,200	96,908,000	98,950,400	98,950,400	98,950,400	4,808,200	5.1
SEG	<u>236,780,600</u>	<u>232,411,800</u>	<u>235,553,900</u>	<u>235,553,900</u>	<u>235,553,900</u>	<u>- 1,226,700</u>	- 0.5
TOTAL	\$336,967,800	\$335,679,300	\$339,874,100	\$339,874,100	\$339,874,100	\$2,906,300	0.9%

FTE Position Summary						
Fund	2002-03 Base	2004-05 Governor	2004-05 Jt. Finance	2004-05 Legislature	2004-05 Act 33	Act 33 Change Over 2002-03 Base
GPR	9.30	6.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 9.30
FED	7.50	7.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	4.00
PR	779.24	770.39	814.04	814.04	814.04	34.80
SEG	<u>149.76</u>	<u>138.11</u>	<u>154.06</u>	<u>154.06</u>	<u>154.06</u>	<u>4.30</u>
TOTAL	945.80	922.80	979.60	979.60	979.60	33.80

Budget Change Items

General Agency Provisions

1. STANDARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

	Governor (Chg. to Base)		Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)		Net Change	
	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions
GPR-REV	\$0		\$26,400		\$26,400	
GPR	\$50,000	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$50,000	0.00
FED	276,200	0.00	0	0.00	276,200	0.00
PR	1,845,800	0.00	- 15,000	0.00	1,830,800	0.00
SEG	<u>460,200</u>	<u>- 1.00</u>	<u>- 12,800</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>447,400</u>	<u>- 1.00</u>
Total	\$2,632,200	- 1.00	- \$27,800	0.00	\$2,604,400	- 1.00

Governor: Provide standard adjustments to the base budget totaling \$25,000 GPR, \$138,100 FED, \$922,900 PR, \$230,100 SEG and -1.0 SEG position annually. Adjustments are for: (a) turnover reduction (-\$246,400 PR and -\$146,000 SEG annually); (b) removal of noncontinuing elements from the base (-\$80,300 SEG and -1.0 SEG position annually); (c) full funding of continuing salaries and fringe benefits (\$25,000 GPR, \$118,700 FED, -\$80,700 PR, and \$435,100 SEG annually); (d) reclassifications (\$19,400 FED and \$11,600 PR annually); (e) overtime (\$541,900 PR and \$14,900 SEG annually); (f) night and weekend differential (\$689,000 PR annually); (g) fifth week of vacation as cash (\$7,500 PR and \$6,400 SEG annually); and (h) minor offsetting transfers within the same appropriation.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Delete funding for fifth week of vacation as cash (-\$7,500 PR and -\$6,400 SEG annually). Require the agency to lapse to the general fund \$7,500 PR and \$5,700 SEG annually from those PR and SEG accounts in which these fifth week of vacation as cash payments had been budgeted. Estimate GPR-REV of \$13,200 annually. Specify, however, that the agency is not required to lapse to the general fund any PR or SEG amount that is from federal funds or that is from another fund source whose lapse to the general fund would be prohibited by state or federal laws or the state or federal constitution.

[Act 33 Section: 9160(3f)]

2. DEBT SERVICE REESTIMATES [LFB Paper 195]

	Governor (Chg. to Base)	Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)	Net Change
GPR	\$220,300	- \$17,400	\$202,900
PR	1,135,600	0	1,135,600
SEG	<u>- 5,731,400</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>- 5,731,400</u>
Total	- \$4,375,500	- \$17,400	- \$4,392,900

Governor: Reestimate the agency's debt service requirements by \$155,500 GPR, -\$22,400 PR, and -\$3,038,800 SEG in 2003-04 and \$64,800 GPR, \$1,158,000 PR, and -\$2,692,600 SEG in 2004-05 for the following programs: (a) facilities at the Veterans Home at King and the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Retirement Center (\$155,500 GPR and -\$22,400 PR in 2003-04 and \$64,800 GPR and \$1,158,000 PR in 2004-05); (b) tax exempt borrowing for the veteran mortgage loan program (-\$3,058,800 SEG in 2003-04 and -\$2,708,700 SEG in 2004-05); and (c) capital construction at the Southern Wisconsin Memorial Cemetery (\$20,000 SEG in 2003-04 and \$16,100 SEG in 2004-05). In addition, transfer \$119,000 PR annually budgeted in unallotted reserve for the operation of the Veterans Home at King and the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Retirement Center to support debt service payments under the debt service appropriation for these facilities.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Reestimate debt service costs for facilities at the Veterans Home at King and the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Retirement Center by -\$12,000 GPR in 2003-04 and -\$5,400 GPR in 2004-05.

3. BONDING AUTHORITY INCREASE FOR PRIMARY MORTGAGE LOAN PROGRAM REFUNDINGS

BR	\$175,000,000
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Governor/Legislature: Increase bonding authority for the purpose of refunding primary mortgage loan program bonds by \$175,000,000. The total bonding authority for the program would increase from \$665,000,000 to 840,000,000.

[Act 33 Section: 690]

4. VETERANS MORTGAGE LOAN REPAYMENT FUND TRANSFER TO THE GENERAL FUND [LFB Paper 805]

	Governor (Chg. to Base)	Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)	Net Change
GPR-REV	\$1,800,600	- \$1,800,600	\$0
SEG-Transfer	\$1,800,600	- \$1,800,600	\$0

Governor: Transfer \$900,300 SEG annually from the available balances in the veterans mortgage loan repayment fund to the general fund. The veterans mortgage loan repayment fund consists of direct bond proceeds, repayments on mortgages, and investment earnings on proceeds. The projected closing balance in the fund at the end of the 2002-03 fiscal year is estimated at \$115,569,600.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Delete provision.

5. BASE BUDGET REDUCTIONS

	Governor (Chg. to Base)		Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)		Net Change	
	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions
GPR	-\$200,000	- 2.00	\$0	0.00	-\$200,000	- 2.00
SEG	- 1,303,800	- 9.80	1,045,000	7.30	- 258,800	- 2.50
Total	-\$1,503,800	- 11.80	\$1,045,000	7.30	-\$458,800	- 4.50

Governor: Delete \$100,000 GPR and \$651,900 SEG and 2.0 GPR and 9.80 SEG positions annually. The base level reductions would be applied to amounts budgeted for salaries and fringe benefits, as follows: (a) operations of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (-\$89,800 GPR and -\$32,000 SEG and -2.0 GPR and -1.0 SEG positions annually); (b) operations of the self-amortizing mortgage loan program (-\$262,600 SEG and -3.37 SEG positions annually); and (c) administration of loans and aids to veterans (-\$357,300 SEG and -5.43 SEG positions annually). In addition, reduce supplies and services funding for the operation of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (-\$10,200 GPR annually). The total GPR funding reduction applied to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum represents a 14.4% annual reduction to the adjusted base.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Restore \$522,500 SEG and 7.3 SEG positions annually for salaries and fringe benefits for: (a) operations of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (\$89,800 SEG and 2.0 SEG positions annually); (b) operations of the self-amortizing mortgage loan program (\$208,000 SEG and 2.37 SEG positions annually); and (c) administration of loans and aids to veterans (\$214,500 SEG and 2.93 SEG positions annually). In addition, restore \$10,200 SEG annually for supplies and services for the operation of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

6. EDUCATIONAL GRANTS REIMBURSEMENTS [LFB Paper 806]

	Governor (Chg. to Base)	Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)	Net Change
SEG	\$1,199,300	\$565,400	\$1,764,700

Governor: Provide \$355,500 in 2003-04 and \$843,800 in 2004-05 for the following educational grant programs administered by the Department:

Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Grant Program. Provide \$290,400 in 2003-04 and \$664,200 in 2004-05 to fund anticipated grant cost increases. The program reimburses qualifying veterans for the costs of tuition and fees up to 85% of the cost of tuition and fees for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate if the qualifying veteran attends any institution or center within the UW System, any state technical college or any similar institution that has a tuition reciprocity agreement with Wisconsin. The recommended funding increase is based on a projected 17% annual increase used by DOA for undergraduate resident tuition and fees at the Madison campus. In 2001-02, some 1,257 grants were awarded at a total cost of \$1,772,200. Base level funding in the appropriation is \$1,907,900 annually.

Revise the program eligibility standards to allow eligible veterans to receive tuition and fee reimbursements for courses that begin within ten years after separation from military service. Under current law, veterans may be reimbursed for courses that are completed within that ten-year period.

Part-Time Study Grant Program. Provide \$65,100 in 2003-04 and \$179,600 in 2004-05 to fund anticipated grant cost increases. The program reimburses qualifying veterans for the cost of tuition and fees at an institution of higher education in the state or a public or private high school. The maximum amount of the grant may not exceed 85% of the cost of tuition and fees for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate. The recommended funding increase is based on a projected 17% annual increase used by DOA for undergraduate resident tuition and fees at the Madison campus. In 2001-02, some 1,028 grants were awarded at a total cost of \$535,300. Base level funding in the appropriation is \$608,300 annually.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Modify the basis on which reimbursements are made under the two programs by specifying that after the later of September 1, 2003, or the effective date of the bill, eligible veterans would be reimbursed for their tuition costs up to 100% of the cost of tuition for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate rather than at the rate of up to 85% of the

cost of tuition and fees for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate for veterans without a service-connected disability of at least 30%, or 100% of tuition and fees for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate for veterans that have a service-connected disability of 30% or greater. Specify that any individual that received a reimbursement grant under either program prior to the effective date of this provision would be reimbursed the greater of: (a) their costs up to 100% of the cost of tuition for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate; (b) their costs up to 85% of the cost of tuition and fees for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate; or (c) 100% of tuition and fees for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate for a veteran with a service-connected disability of 30% or greater.

Tuition Grant Reimbursement Program. Provide \$426,200 in 2003-04 to fund these modifications and convert the annual tuition reimbursement grant program appropriation to a biennial basis.

Part-Time Study Grant Program. Provide \$139,200 in 2003-04 to fund these modifications and convert the annual part-time study grant appropriation to a biennial basis.

Veto by Governor [D-26]: Delete references under both grant programs specifying that only individuals who received grants prior to the effective date of the bill could receive the greater of their costs up to: (a) 100% of the cost of tuition for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate; (b) 85% of the cost of tuition and fees for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate; or (c) 100% of tuition and fees for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate for a veteran with a service-connected disability of 30% or greater. Delete provision specifying that veterans who do not have a service-connected disability of at least 30% would receive an amount different from veterans with a service-connected disability.

The effect of this veto is to provide tuition reimbursement grants to all eligible veterans at a rate of up to 100% of tuition and fees for a UW-Madison resident undergraduate. Although the Governor's partial veto does not affect the appropriation amounts provided for reimbursement grants, it is estimated that there would be additional costs of \$101,800 in 2003-04, and \$702,800 in 2004-05 due to the increased reimbursement rate.

[Act 33 Sections: 564g, 564m, 1088m thru 1089j, 1092g thru 1092q, and 9358(1f)]

[Act 33 Vetoed Sections: 1089g, 1092q, 1092r, and 9358(1f)]

7. HEALTH CARE AID GRANTS FUNDING

SEG	\$600,000
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Governor/Legislature: Provide \$300,000 annually for the health care aid grants program to support anticipated increases in demand for services, particularly for dentures, eye care and hearing aids. These grants are awarded to eligible needy veterans and family members for health care costs that are not covered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. A veteran or resident dependent may not have liquid assets of more than \$1,000 without losing grant eligibility. Grants are limited to \$5,000 per veteran or dependent per year. Base level funding for this program is \$1,200,000 annually.

8. VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION GRANT INCREASES [LFB Paper 807]

	Governor (Chg. to Base)	Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)	Net Change
SEG	\$150,000	- \$30,000	\$120,000

Governor: Provide \$75,000 annually to fund new or increased grant amounts to qualifying veterans service organizations. New annual grants of \$30,000 each would be provided to the Military Order of the Purple Heart and to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, respectively. Neither organization currently receives a grant from the Department. The current \$15,000 annual grant awarded to AMVETS would be increased by \$15,000 annually to \$30,000 annually.

Under current law, the Department must provide grants to a veterans service organization that has maintained a full-time service officer at its regional office for at least five of the last ten years. The grants equal 25% of all salaries and travel expenses of the organization, subject to an overall annual grant maximum of \$30,000. Current base level funding for the grant program is \$105,000 annually and provides annual grants to four veterans service organizations: the American Legion (\$30,000 annually), Veterans of Foreign Wars (\$30,000 annually), Disabled American Veterans (\$30,000 annually), and AMVETS (\$15,000 annually).

Joint Finance/Legislature: Delete \$15,000 annually for an increased grant for AMVETS.

9. MILITARY HONORS FUNERAL PROGRAM COST INCREASES [LFB Paper 808]

	Governor (Chg. to Base)	Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)	Net Change
SEG	\$128,000	- \$128,000	\$0

Governor: Provide \$58,500 in 2003-04 and \$69,500 in 2004-05 for the following increased costs related to military honors funerals: (a) an increased number of \$50 reimbursement payments to veterans organizations that provide honor guard details at military honors funerals (\$37,000 in 2003-04 and \$50,500 in 2004-05); and (b) increased rental costs at Fort McCoy for the honor guard team currently based at that facility (\$21,500 in 2003-04 and \$19,000 in 2004-05).

Base level funding for honor guard reimbursements is \$125,000 annually. The proposed increase is based on projected honor guard reimbursement requests for 90% of an estimated 3,600 military funerals in 2003-04 and 3,900 military funerals in 2004-05.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Delete the new funding recommended for the program and provide the \$58,500 in 2003-04 and \$69,500 in 2004-05 through an offsetting transfer from base level funding under the agency's subsistence grants program appropriation.

10. DOCUMENT IMAGING PROJECT MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

SEG	\$62,600
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Governor/Legislature: Provide \$31,300 annually budgeted in unallotted reserve to fund the estimated costs of ongoing maintenance contracts for the agency's document imaging system. On December 17, 2002, the Joint Committee on Finance provided a one-time supplement of \$640,900 in 2002-03 to the Department to fund a document imaging project to convert discharge files, veteran's eligibility files, and active grant and loan information files to an electronic format and to support the associated hardware and software. The Governor's recommended funding would support the estimated annual costs of hardware and software maintenance contracts for the imaging project.

11. VETERANS MUSEUM OPERATIONS FUNDING [LFB Paper 809]

	Governor (Chg. to Base)		Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)		Net Change	
	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions
GPR	-\$32,000	- 0.50	-\$1,202,800	- 6.80	-\$1,234,800	- 7.30
PR	300	- 0.50	- 354,100	0.00	- 353,800	- 0.50
SEG	<u>66,300</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,556,900</u>	<u>6.80</u>	<u>1,623,200</u>	<u>6.80</u>
Total	\$34,600	- 1.00	\$0	0.00	\$34,600	- 1.00

Governor: Provide -\$16,000 GPR, \$16,300 PR, \$41,300 SEG and -0.5 GPR and 0.5 SEG position in 2003-04 and -\$16,000 GPR, -\$16,000 PR, \$25,000 SEG and -0.5 GPR and -0.5 PR position in 2004-05 for museum operations. Adjustments are for (a) supplies and services for additional janitorial support related to the expansion of the museum (\$25,000 SEG annually); and (b) a one-year extension of a two-year project position and the simultaneous conversion of the position in 2003-04 from split GPR/PR to SEG/PR funding (-\$16,000 GPR, \$16,300 PR, \$16,300 SEG and -0.5 GPR and 0.5 SEG position in 2003-04 and -\$16,000 GPR, -\$16,000 PR and -0.5 GPR and -0.5 PR position in 2004-05). The position would be used to convert the museum collection's catalogue to an electronically accessible record. Included in the Governor's recommendation is the conversion of a 0.15 PR classified position at the museum to a 0.15 PR unclassified position. [The 0.15 PR unclassified position is an error resulting after a request of the agency was subsequently denied by the Governor.]

The total amounts budgeted would total \$1,571,600 and 11.15 positions in 2003-04 and \$1,523,000 and 10.65 positions in 2004-05, including: (a) \$601,400 GPR and 6.8 GPR positions annually; (b) \$193,200 PR and 0.5 PR position in 2003-04 and \$160,900 PR in 2004-05 from tribal gaming revenues; and (c) \$777,000 SEG and 3.85 SEG positions in 2003-04 and \$760,700 SEG and 3.35 SEG positions in 2004-05 from the veterans trust fund.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Provide -\$601,400 GPR, -\$193,200 PR, and \$794,600 SEG and -6.8 GPR, -0.5 PR and 7.3 SEG positions in 2003-04 and -\$601,400 GPR, -\$160,900 PR, and \$762,300 SEG and -6.8 GPR and 6.8 SEG positions in 2004-05 to reflect the conversion of all GPR-

and PR-supported Wisconsin Veterans Museum operations to SEG funding from the veterans trust fund. Convert 0.15 FTE position from the unclassified to the classified service to correct a file maintenance error that resulted after an agency request was denied by the Governor.

12. CONSOLIDATION OF STATE AGENCY ATTORNEYS UNDER DOA [LFB Paper 105]

	Governor (Chg. to Base)	Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)	Net Change
PR	- 0.15	0.15	0.00
SEG	<u>- 0.85</u>	<u>0.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	- 1.00	1.00	0.00

Governor: Delete 0.15 PR and 0.85 SEG position annually to reflect the consolidation of executive branch attorneys under DOA, effective the later of October 1, 2003, or the first day of the third month beginning after the bill is enacted. Reallocate \$12,900 PR and \$72,900 SEG in 2003-04 and \$17,200 PR and \$97,300 SEG in 2004-05 of base level salary and fringe benefits funding that currently supports 0.15 PR and 0.85 SEG staff attorney position to the agency's supplies and services budget to pay for legal services supplied by DOA. The agency's chief council position would not be subject to transfer to DOA under the Governor's recommendation.

Joint Finance: Delete provision. Direct the Secretary of DOA to delete 31.0 FTE executive branch agency attorney positions, other than attorney positions at the University of Wisconsin System, that are vacant on January 2, 2004, and lapse the associated budgeted non-FED salary and fringe benefits amounts to the general fund in 2003-04 and 2004-05. If fewer than 31.0 FTE agency attorney positions are vacant on January 2, 2004, authorize the Secretary of DOA to delete sufficient additional state agency attorney positions, other than at the University of Wisconsin System, to ensure the elimination of a total of 31.0 FTE state agency attorney positions. The additional fiscal effect of this position deletion requirement is reflected under "Administration -- Transfers to the Department."

Senate/Legislature: Add the Department of Employee Trust Funds and Investment Board to the executive branch agencies that would be exempted from the attorney deletion requirement.

Veto by Governor [D-2]: Delete all references to the word "attorney," so that the Secretary of DOA must eliminate 31.0 positions that are vacant as of January 2, 2004. Delete the exemption of the University of Wisconsin System, so that the only executive branch agencies that would be exempted from the position reductions are the Department of Employee Trust Funds and the Investment Board.

[Act 33 Section: 9101(9x)]

[Act 33 Vetoed Section: 9101(9x)]

13. EDUCATIONAL APPROVAL BOARD STUDENT PROTECTION FUND [LFB Paper 810]

PR	\$60,300
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Governor: Provide \$60,300 in 2004-05 under a new PR, continuing student protection appropriation under the Educational Approval Board (EAB), which is attached administratively to the Department. Specify that the new appropriation would be funded from fees received from proprietary schools to support a new student protection fund. Authorize the EAB to: (a) make payments to students, parents, or sponsors for full or partial tuition losses arising from the closure of a proprietary school; and (b) specify a fee, by administrative rule, that proprietary schools would have to pay into the fund.

Under current law, EAB is authorized to inspect and approve private trade, correspondence, business and technical schools that do business with this state. EAB requires these institutions to provide a surety bond equal to 125% of the amount of tuition collected. The bond is intended to reimburse students, parents, or other sponsoring agents if the institution is unable to fulfill its contractual education obligations to the student. The Board's student protection fund would make reimbursements where the surety bond proved to be inadequate. The EAB anticipates that the student protection fund would ultimately be capped at approximately \$1 million and would likely require annual additional fee payments by proprietary schools of approximately \$1 per \$1,000 of revenues.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Stipulate that the Board discontinue collecting annual fees from proprietary schools for the student protection fund during any period in which the balance in the fund exceeds \$1,000,000.

[Act 33 Sections: 565 and 1094 thru 1095m]

14. GROUNDSKEEPER POSITIONS AT THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL CEMETERIES

	Funding	Positions
FED	\$230,500	4.00
PR	<u>66,900</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$297,400	4.00

Joint Finance/Legislature: Provide \$98,800 FED and \$28,700 PR in 2003-04 and \$131,700 FED and \$38,200 PR in 2004-05 and authorize 4.0 FED positions annually for additional groundskeeper services at the Department's veterans memorial cemeteries. The PR funding would support an existing unfunded position at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

15. FUNDING CONVERSION FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS

	Funding	Positions
PR	-\$145,600	- 1.00
SEG	<u>145,600</u>	<u>1.00</u>
Total	\$0	0.00

Joint Finance/Legislature: Delete \$72,800 PR and 1.0 PR position annually and provide \$72,800 SEG and 1.0 SEG position annually to reflect the funding conversion from tribal gaming revenues to the veterans trust fund of the following programs for American Indian veterans: (a) an American Indian services coordinator position (-\$57,800 PR and -1.0 PR position annually and \$57,800 SEG and 1.0 SEG

position annually); and (b) grants to assist American Indians in obtaining federal and state veterans benefits (-\$15,000 PR and \$15,000 SEG annually).

[Act 33 Sections: 564d, 564f, 564t, 564v, 610n, 610q, 846m, and 1089m]

Homes and Facilities for Veterans

1. CARE FACILITIES -- ELIMINATE VACANT POSITIONS

Funding Positions		
PR	- \$952,200	- 8.20

Governor/Legislature: Reduce funding by \$476,100 annually and delete 8.2 positions, beginning in 2003-04, to eliminate funding for salary and fringe benefits for: (a) 4.0 vacant positions at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Retirement Center at Union Grove (-\$187,900 annually); and (b) 4.2 vacant positions at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King (-\$288,200 annually).

2. CARE FACILITIES -- CNA TRAINING AND RETENTION

PR	\$366,000
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Governor/Legislature: Provide \$183,000 annually to fund salary and fringe benefit cost for individuals while they receive training to be certified nurse assistants (CNAs) at the Veterans Homes at King (\$109,900 annually) and to support salary and fringe benefit costs for trainees after they are hired as limited-term employees (LTEs), but before they are converted to permanent positions (\$73,100).

3. CARE FACILITIES -- NURSE EDUCATION STIPEND PROGRAM [LFB Paper 815]

PR	\$210,000
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Governor: Provide \$105,000 annually to fund a new nurses education stipend program.

Authorize DVA to develop a program to provide stipends to individuals to attend school and receive the necessary credentials to become employed at the Veterans Home at King or the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Retirement Center at Union Grove. Specify that, if DVA develops a stipend program, it would be required to promulgate administrative rules related to the program, including establishing the application process, eligibility criteria, stipend amount, repayment provisions, and other provisions that DVA determines are necessary to administer the program. Require DVA to promulgate these rules as emergency rules without making a finding of an emergency.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Reduce medical assistance (MA) benefits funding in DHFS by \$43,700 GPR in 2003-04 and by \$43,700 GPR in 2004-05. Create an MA benefits appropriation in DHFS to fund the state's share of the MA costs of the nurse stipend program with revenue from

the veterans trust fund. The fiscal effect of this item is summarized under "DHFS -- Health Care Financing -- Base Funding and Revenue".

[Act 33 Sections: 465m, 564, 1090, and 9158(1)]

4. CARE FACILITIES -- COMPUTER HELP-DESK SERVICES [LFB Paper 816]

	Governor (Chg. to Base)	Jt. Finance/Leg. (Chg. to Gov)	Net Change
PR	\$100,000	- \$75,000	\$25,000

Governor: Provide \$50,000 annually to support contracted computer help desk services at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Retirement Center at Union Grove.

Joint Finance/Legislature: Delete \$50,000 in 2003-04 and \$25,000 in 2004-05 so that \$25,000 in 2004-05 would be provided to support contracted help desk services, beginning January 1, 2005.

5. SOUTHERN VETERANS HOME

Joint Finance/Legislature: Provide \$1,267,400 and 44.5 positions, beginning in 2004-05, to staff the new 120-bed skilled nursing facility at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove. Require DVA to submit a plan to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance by January 1, 2005, indicating the staffing and funding that would be necessary to fully support the new facility.

	Funding Positions	
PR	\$1,267,400	44.50

Increase medical assistance (MA) benefits funding by \$191,800 GPR and \$269,000 FED in 2004-05 to support projected increases in MA costs relating to this item. The fiscal effect of the MA costs is summarized under "DHFS -- Health Care Financing -- Base Funding and Revenue."

[Act 33 Section: 9158(1v)]

6. NURSING HOME BED ASSESSMENT [LFB Paper 400]

PR	\$1,297,800
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Joint Finance/Legislature: Provide \$648,900 annually to authorize DVA to pay the \$75 monthly assessment on all licensed beds at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. The bill would modify the current monthly assessment by: (a) increasing the amount of the assessment from \$32 to \$75; (b) applying the assessment to all licensed beds, rather than to occupied beds; and (c) applying the assessment to state facilities.